



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **WATANABE, et al.**

Group Art Unit: 2825 *Awale*

Serial No.: **09/320,271**

Examiner: **Calvin Lee**

Filed: **May 27, 1999**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 4409

For: **SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND FABRICATION METHOD THEREOF**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached.

No fee or certification is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, since it is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first official action on the merits following the **Request for Continued Examination (RCE)** in the above-identified patent application.

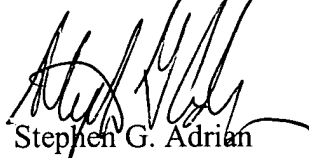
The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

A list of related copending application is also attached hereto. The cited references were made of record in the related copending application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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Atty. Docket No. **990559**  
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**23850**

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Enclosures: PTO-1449  
References  
Related Copending Applications